Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1985. *Tantilla cuesta.*

Tantilla cuesta Wilson

Tantilla cuesta Wilson, 1982:29. Type-locality, "Finca Santa Julia, 1.5 km E San Rafael Pie de la Cuesta, Depto. San Marcos, Guatemala, elevation 1050 m." Holotype, Mus. Vert. Zool. Univ. California, Berkeley 146762, adult (?) female, collected 27 August 1977 by J. E. Cadle (examined by author).

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

- DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. A species of *Tantilla* with no pale middorsal stripe and a complete dark-bordered pale lateral stripe on adjacent halves of dorsal scale rows 3 and 4. The dorsal ground color is dark brown. The venter is cream, except for a very dark brown spot situated on the extreme lateral portion of each ventral scale. The head pattern consists of a pale nuchal collar broadly divided both medially and laterally, the dorsal sections crossing the tips of the parietals and the lateral sections crossing the ultimate supralabial. The remainder of the head is brown, save for a pale cream spot on the snout and pale pre- and postocular spots. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 144 to 147 and 45 to 47, respectively. *Tantilla cuesta* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a complete bold dark-bordered pale lateral stripe situated on adjacent halves of scale rows 3 and 4, no pale middorsal stripe, a pale nuchal collar divided both medially and laterally, a dark brown dorsal ground color, and 144 to 147 ventrals and 45 to 47 subcaudals.

- DESCRIPTIONS. Only the original description of Wilson (1982) exists.

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Wilson (1982) provided a black-and-white photograph of the dorsal and lateral portions of the head and a pen-and-ink drawing of the dorsal color pattern.

- DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla cuesta* is known only from the type-locality at a moderate elevation (1050 m) in the southwestern highlands of Guatemala.

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. All available information on this species is in Wilson (1982).

- ETYMOLOGY. The name *cuesta* is from the Spanish meaning "a hill, mount, or sloping ground," in reference to "the name of the town nearest the type-locality . . . and to the fact that the type locality lies at the foot of the slopes of . . . Volcán Tajamulco, the highest mountain in Central America" (Wilson, 1982).

LITERATURE CITED

Wilson, Larry David. 1982. A review of the colubrid snakes of the genus *Tantilla* of Central America. Milwaukee Pub. Mus. Contrib. Biol. Geol. (52):1–77.

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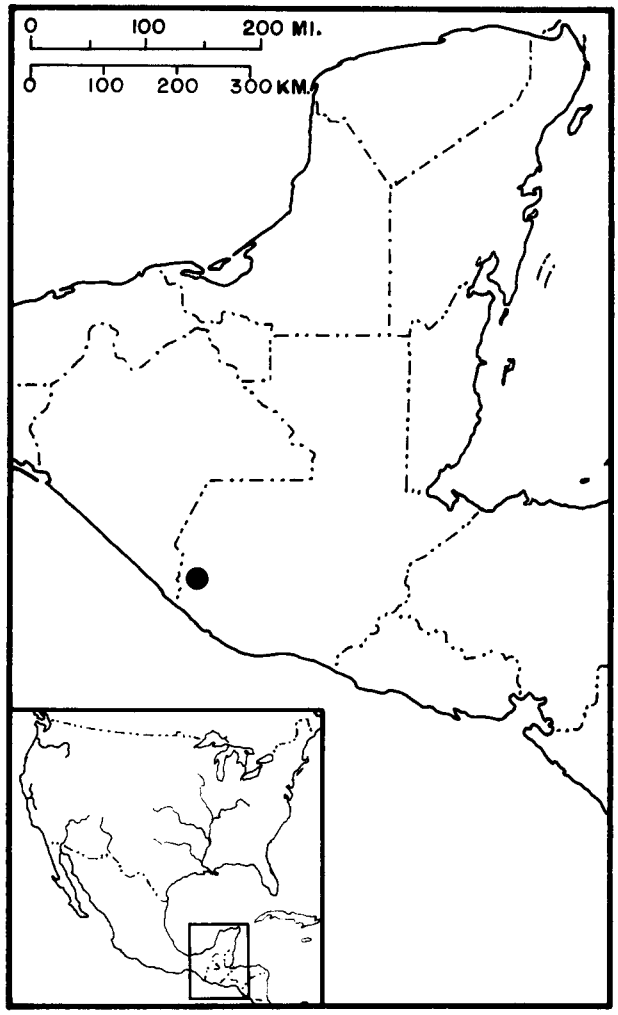

MAP. Solid circle marks type-locality and the only known locality for the species.